

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New): A method for separating a component of a specimen and analyzing the separated component comprising the steps of:

providing a tip having an affinity reagent present;

flowing a volume of specimen through the tip thereby binding the a component of the specimen to the affinity reagent;

flowing an effective dissociation solution through the tip and over the retained affinity reagent with bound component, thereby eluting the bound component from the affinity reagent;

depositing the eluted component directly onto a mass spectrometer probe tip;

inserting the mass spectrometer probe tip into a mass spectrometer, thereby enabling laser desorption/ionization of the component.

24. (New): The method of claim 23 wherein the dissociation solution is a MALDI matrix.

25. (New): The method of claim 23 further including the step of performing mass spectrometric analysis on the eluted component.

26. (New): A method for separating a component of a specimen and analyzing the separated component comprising the steps of:

providing a tip;

binding a component of a specimen to an affinity reagent;

forcing a volume of the affinity reagent with bound component through the tip, thereby retaining the affinity reagent with bound component within the tip,

washing the retained affinity reagent with bound component by forcing rinses through the tip;

drawing a MALDI matrix through the tip and over the retained affinity reagent with bound component, thereby eluting the component from the tip;

depositing the eluted component and MALDI matrix directly onto a mass spectrometer probe tip;

inserting the mass spectrometer probe tip into a mass spectrometer, thereby enabling laser desorption/ionization of the component; and

performing mass spectrometric analysis on the eluted component.